



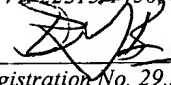
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert Baer et al.
Serial No.: 10/752,431
Conf. No.: 3776
Filed: 1/6/2004
For: FASTENERS FOR COMPOSITE MATERIAL
Art Unit: 3677
Examiner: Reese, David C.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

31 Oct 06 
Date Registration No. 29,367
Attorney for Applicant

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF LON DEHAITRE

Lon DeHaitre declares:

1. I am a named co-inventor of the above-identified patent application.
2. My connection with the assignee of this application is as follows.

From time to time over the last approximately eleven years, I have consulted with Titan Metal Werks, Inc. ("Titan"), a Sub-Chapter S Corporation and the assignee of this application – on a number of projects including the screw that is the subject of this application. From 1964 to 1995, I was employed in various management positions by Abbott-Interfast Corporation ("AIC"), a Sub-Chapter S Corporation owned by the same persons who own Titan. AIC designs, manufactures, imports, and

distributes a broad range of fastener products, including, but not limited to, deck screws. I served as AIC's Vice President for Product Development from 1975 until 1995. Since leaving AIC in 1995, I have consulted with the company on various projects, including, but not limited to, developing a screw for use in wood decking.

3. My background in the field of fasteners is as follows.

In addition to my 30 years with AIC, as described in section 3, above, since 1995, when I formed my own consulting company, DeHaitre & Associates, I have acted as an independent consultant to hardware manufacturers, distributors, and OEM users on issues, among others, relating to the engineering, design, and application of threaded screw fasteners. I am a member of the editorial staff of American Fastener Journal and have had writings published in Fastener Technology International and Builder News (formerly Northwest Builder magazine). I am the author of seventeen patents associated with many areas of fastener and hardware technology, including, but not limited to, high performance deck screws. I am a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers, and the Aeromechanical Fastener Requirements Group. For a ten year period I participated regularly as a member of the Aeromechanical Fastener Requirements Group, Mil Std 1515. My contribution introduced high pressure sealing lock nuts to the military aviation design effort. This resulted in the creation of Military

Specification numbers for my design of an aviation fluid sealing lock nut fabricated from CRES, Cold Rolled Steel, and Aluminum for fuel containment in wet wings and internal tanks. I negotiated a more meaningful pressure test specification to qualify combat aircraft wet wing and internal fuel cell sealing lock nuts.

4. I was recently asked to review the present specification, focusing particularly on page 2, lines 16-17, which read as follows:

Conventional symmetrical or asymmetrical thread can be used in the threaded portion, or a full **three lobe thread** can be used. (Emphasis added).

5. A "three lobe thread" would be understood by those of ordinary skill in the fastener art to define a three lobe thread form running along the threaded portion of the fastener, which becomes a "three lobe shaft" as well.
6. In the fastener industry, if a customer wants a screw with a three lobe thread and shaft, the only language required to designate such is "three lobed thread". The shaft is really the "shank", using industry language, and the thread and the shaft callout are really the same thing. The thread and the shaft, or shank, are not identified separately; again, they are one in the same. If a customer specifies a "three lobe thread", the manufacturer has no options; the fastener would have a three lobed shaft as well.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: 19/Oct, '06


Lon DeHaitre